



2023 WINTER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

Welcome to 2023!

We are looking forward to another exciting year for our Historical Society! Looking back at the previous year, it is heartwarming to see all of the progress that has been made with our fundraisers and our building improvements at both Gordon Hall and at the Museum. All of which couldn't have been accomplished without the tremendous support from our community and surrounding areas.

We painted, repurposed the kitchens, and uncovered the historic flooring at Gordon Hall. At the museum, we added new displays and improved the lighting. And of course, we conducted numerous tours, open houses and other events, as well as meeting on a regular basis to plan for future events.

Our community support has always been tremendous and we really saw this in 2022. Throughout the year many new members visited and helped with our projects.

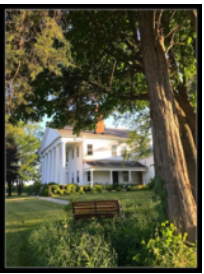
Thank you for your continued support. We are so looking forward to continued progress in all areas at our Historical Society in 2023.

Bev Hill, President Dexter Area Historical Society



A few members checking out the DAHS Ice Sculpture!

2022 Gordon Hall Challenge Grant a Success!



DAHS set a goal to raise \$50,000 this year for our Gordon Hall Challenge Grant. We were very fortunate to have a small group of dedicated supporters come forward very early with a pledge to match up to \$20,000 in donations, so we were off to a good start. Since that time, the lovers of history in this area have dug into their pockets and proved how much they support our goal to restore Gordon Hall. And the effort was successful! As of January 31, 2023, we have raised a total of \$53,450! At this point, all of the money we raise is going into our construction fund, which we will use for construction, to leverage additional funding from donors and grant makers, and to support our fundraising. Our biggest challenge now is fundraising. If you would like to join us or have ideas, please contact us at DexMuseum@aol.com or call 734-426-2519. New perspectives and new contacts are always welcome! Join us to enrich our community of today, tomorrow, and 100 years from now.

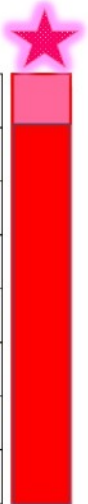
To those of you who have donated to restore Gordon Hall, we can't thank you enough! To that amazing group that has donated faithfully over the years, you are an inspiration! This is a huge job and it will take each and every one of us to complete it successfully. THANK YOU for your faith in us.

Holiday Campaign in Support of Gordon Hall

Final 1/31/23



Total 1/31/23	\$53,450
GOAL	\$50,000
1/15/2023 - 45,885	\$45,000
	\$40,000
12/30/2022 - \$35,735	\$35,000
12/19/2022 - \$31,500	\$30,000
	\$25,000
12/1/22 - \$20,000 Challenge Grant!	\$20,000



Mark Your Calendar for 2023 Events at DAHS

- February 5 - DAHS Annual Meeting, 2:00 pm at the Museum
- May date TBD - DuMouchelle's Appraisal Clinic
- May 5 - Museum opens for the season. Open Friday and Saturday 1-3 pm
- May 5 - Gordon Hall Raffle ticket sales begin
- May 29 - Dexter's Memorial Day Parade. We will be marching!
- August 11-12 - Dexter Daze, with the Gordon Hall Raffle drawing at the end
- September 8-10 - Gordon Hall Days
- November 25 - Museum closes for the season
- December 1-3 - Christmas at the Mansion
- December 2 - Holiday Bazaar at the Museum

2022 Christmas At The Mansion!

Not A Creature Was Stirring was the theme this year for our Christmas At The Mansion event. Jan Lyons was instrumental in helping us turn Gordon Hall into a beautiful Christmas display with the Christmas trees decorated with plush little stuffed mice!



We opened with a fabulous fundraiser on Friday night with great food and spirits enjoyed by all. This year we were joined by Dan Cooney and Dawn Purcell from the Encore Theater who led us in singing many of our favorite Christmas songs. Ina Germain and Jan Lyons chaired this event.



On Saturday Santa returned and there were long lines of children, families, and many adults waiting to visit with him. Children also made gingerbread houses to take home to remember their experience at Gordon Hall. Christmas carols were sung by the Dexter Community Players Youth Theater to add to the festive feelings of this great day.

To round out the weekend, a Christmas Tea was held among the beautiful decorations.

After the weekend Gordon Hall was opened for additional visits for those who missed out on the weekend activities. We were pleasantly surprised by the number of visitors who came to see the beautiful decorations and to learn about the history of Gordon Hall through the end of December.



The many pictures taken and the many compliments received over the course of these events was very heartening. We are already planning for 2023 so please let us know if you might be willing to join us. We'd love to hear from you.

2022 Summary of the Dexter Heritage Guild

2022 has been a productive year for the Dexter Heritage Guild. Success was ensured by having sales at multiple events: an Antique Appraisal Day, Gordon Hall Days, Webster Fall Festival & also the Holiday Bazaar & Bake Sale at the Museum. The Guild members have been very busy producing an amazing variety of products.



Many local businesses donated gift cards & merchandise that were added to Gift Baskets sold at the bazaar. We were grateful for their continued support: Busch's, Carosello Pasta, the Cider Mill, Dexter Bakery, The Dexter Pub, Dexter Senior Center, Encore Theater, Hackney Hardware, Huron Pet Supply, Joe & Rosie's, Tiani Body Care, 3-Bird and Jen House Design, Plymouth, for the evergreen centerpieces.



We are planning our annual spring time (TBA) Antique Appraisal Day with DuMouchelle. Last year, Mr. Bob DuMouchelle was our appraiser, speaking with everyone about their amazing items.



Events this year will include: DuMouchelles, a possible Mother's Day Bazaar this spring, Gordon Hall Days & the Webster Fall Festival.

The considered Spring/Mother's Day bazaar would occur the same day as the DuMouchelles event. Watch for updates.

The Holiday Bazaar is always the first Saturday in December. This year, there is a possibility of a 2-day bazaar. Again, watch for updates.

To keep our supply costs down, we appreciate donations. We could use: Christmas fabrics, fabric with U of M and/or MSU logo prints, polar fleece, raised cake stands, Sugar 'N Cream yarn, crew socks with cuffs (thin or thick, any colors), beads (broken necklaces are fine) and pint size jars.

The Heritage Guild will always welcome new members. Please contact Guild President Pat Pudduck at 734-426-8952 for further information.

Dexter Area Museum Update



What's happening while the museum is closed for the winter months? It's our time to work on projects and time to do renovations. One of the projects scheduled is to upgrade the lighting in the meeting room and the Dexter Leader printing display in the lower level.

Other projects are organizing and properly storing the many artifacts we have stored at the museum. Not all items can be displayed and those not displayed need to be preserved by cleaning and wrapping in acid free paper and place in acid free boxes. These items are recorded and an inventory log book is kept of all the artifacts in house.

Displays are also updated with new items, as well as, changing the whole display. This involves bringing new display items out, but also packing up current displays properly and storing away. Labeling is another process that always needs to be accomplished. This is a constant process at the museum, recording the correct historical information of the artifact.

So, as you can see, organization is an ongoing process at the museum, and is never completed. We are always looking for help. If you have some time and want to get involved, please look us up.

This is the sixth article from the large posters displayed at 2021 Gordon Hall Days. Each article highlights an aspect of the Dexter Area, Gordon Hall or the Dexter Family. Caryl Burke or Jan Weaver researched the different subjects and added relevant pictures. Nancy Van Blaricum edited and reorganized the articles to fit into this format.

Samuel W. Dexter Family Homes

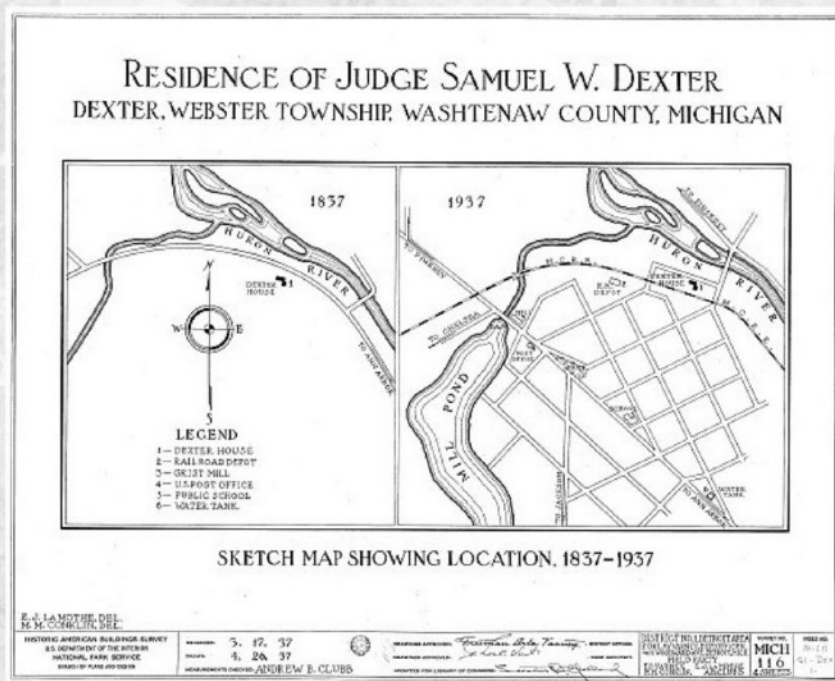
When Samuel Dexter returned to Michigan in 1825, he and his second wife Susan first ived in the log cabin that was built on the west side of Mill Creek. They shared the cabin with workmen hired to build the mills.

A frame house on Huron Street was completed in December of 1826. The home was large and was shared with Charles Taylor and his family who worked for them, as well as with other pioneers as they came.

The home faced the river and was surrounded by orchards.

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To entice the railroad to come through the village, Judge Dexter gave the railroad company land upon which to build their tracks. But the tracks were laid through his orchard very near his home. The loud sounds and the destruction of his orchard enticed him to build a new home called Gordon Hall just west of town.



***Drawing of the Dexter Huron Street home
from the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1934.***



After standing vacant for many years, the home was torn down in 1939 in spite of local efforts to save the structure. The house had been neglected for years but the oak framework was sound and the delicately molded gables were beautiful, one of which is in possession of the Dexter Area Museum.

Business Members

The Dexter Area Historical Society began a campaign to bring local Dexter businesses into the membership of the Dexter Area Historical Society. Businesses are offered a lifetime, non-voting membership in the society and in return they will receive the newsletter, a membership emblem and recognition in the newsletter of those who have joined. If you are interested in joining us, please contact us at DexMuseum@aol.com. We are happy to have the following as DAHS Businesses:

Beacon Dental - Dr. David Traynor
Chelsea Dexter Dental Group
Cindy Strang Insurance Agency
CMR Mechanical LLC
Dexter Family Dentistry - Brent Kolb
Dexter Oral Surgery and Implant Center
Dexter Riverside Cellar
Finn's JM&J Insurance Agency
Hackney Hardware

Hosmer-Muehlig Funeral Chapel
Huron Counseling Services
Main Street Optometry-Vision
Reed Barbering - Robin's
Spring Valley Trout Farm
St. Andrew's UCC Church
Village Animal Clinic of Dexter
Wallace & Wallace Properties
Whitetail Farm - Mary Baude

Membership Form

On the next page is our Membership Form! Please print it out and use it to join or renew your Membership in the Dexter Area Historical Society! We always need volunteers of all ages and diverse skill sets, but one of the areas missing from the form is a place for you to indicate how you would like to volunteer to help us. Please let us know what you love to do by putting a note somewhere on the page!

Membership fees are due January 1st each year. We have indicated in the note in your email or on your letter the status of your account according to our records. Please use the form on the next page to renew or begin a new membership. Mail the form and your check made out to DAHS to Dexter Area Historical Society, 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130.

Thank you.

DEXTER AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS:

President:

Beverly Hill

Vice-President:

Caryl Burke

Secretary:

Sharon Wheeler

Treasurer:

Carol Jones

DIRECTORS:

Neil Adams

Sue Behnke

Ina Germain

Shawn Pierrel

Ceci Riecker

Nancy Van Blaricum

Gary Vander Haagan

Jan Weaver

CONTACT INFORMATION:

NEWSLETTER - Nancy J. Van Blaricum DexMuseum@aol.com

WEBMASTER - Jan Weaver weaver74@charter.net

GORDON HALLSPECIAL EVENTS - Bene Fusilier: 734-426-8972

HERITAGE GUILD - Pat Pudduck: patpudduck@gmail.com

MUSEUM DIRECTOR - Nina Rackham: NDRackham@aol.com

FACILITIES:

DEXTER AREA MUSEUM - 3443 Inverness, Dexter, MI 48130

GORDON HALL - 8311 Island Lake Rd., Dexter, MI 48130

PHONE - 734-426-2519 WEBSITE: www.DexterHistory.org EMAIL: DexMuseum@aol.com

Museum Hours: Friday and Saturday, 1 to 3 PM, May through November



Membership Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____
(home) (cell)

Email: _____

Membership Type* ☐ New member ☐ Renewal

\$_____ Individual \$15 yearly

\$_____ Family \$25 yearly

\$_____ Student \$2 yearly

\$_____ Business \$50

\$_____ Life \$200

Please indicate residence location:

☐ City of Dexter

☐ Township: _____

☐ Other: _____

\$_____ Extra gift for Museum

\$_____ Extra gift for Gordon Hall

\$_____ **TOTAL**

-----Make checks payable to: **Dexter Area Historical Society (DAHS)**-----

Mail to:

Dexter Area Historical Society
3443 Inverness Street
Dexter, MI 48130

Contact:

Phone: 734.426.2519
Email: dexmuseum@aol.com
Website: dexterhistory.org
Find us on Facebook @dexterhistory
Dexter Area Historical Society

*All memberships except Life and Business are renewed each January.